IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 16 to 22 have been canceled. New claims 31 to 37 have been added. The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 22 (canceled).

Claim 23 (currently amended):   A method for predicting a mean time period between two failures of a technical system, an electronic components list being predefined, the electronic components list comprising maintenance-intensive components of the technical system in which each failure of a component of the components list leads to a failure of the system, the method comprising the following steps carried out using an electronic data processing system:

acquiring of a setpoint MTBF value for each component of the components list,

summing of all reciprocal values of the setpoint MTBF values acquired for the components of the components list, and

using a reciprocal value of the sum of the reciprocal values as a mean time period predicted between two failures of the technical system.

Claim 24 (previously presented):   The method as claimed in claim 23 further comprising:

additionally acquiring a setpoint MTTR value for each component of the components list, and

calculating of a prediction of a mean time period for fault recovery in the technical system as a weighted mean of the acquired setpoint MTTR values of the components of the components list, the reciprocal values of the setpoint MTBF values of the components of the components list being used as weighting factors.

Claim 25 (previously presented):   The method as claimed in claim 24 wherein when the setpoint MTTR value of at least one component is acquired the following steps are carried out:

acquiring of a setpoint MRT value and of a setpoint MTD value of this component, and

using the sum of the setpoint MRT value and setpoint MTD value of this component as the setpoint MTTR value of this component.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The method according to claim 23 wherein the components list is valid for a category of technical systems which carry out the same functions, the prediction is made for a plurality of systems of the category, and a comparison of the predicted failure frequencies and down times of the plurality of systems is generated.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 26 wherein a partial comparison of the predicted failure frequencies and down times in the plurality of systems is generated for each component of the components list during the generation of the comparison and is inserted into the comparison.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The method as claimed in claim 23 wherein, for each component of the components list,

actual times at which one of the components fails are logged, and

the one component is compared with the acquired setpoint MTBF value.

Claim 29 (currently amended): ~~A computer program product~~ A computer readable storage media having computer executable instructions for implementing the method of claim 23, the computer readable storage media loadable directly into an internal memory of a computer ~~and comprises software sections with which a method as claimed in claim 23 can be carried out when the product is running on a computer~~.

Claim 30 (currently amended): ~~A computer program product~~ A computer readable storage media having computer executable instructions for implementing the method of claim 23 ~~which is the stored in a medium readable by a computer, and which has a programming means which can be read by a computer, said means causing the computer to carry out the method as claimed in claim 23~~.

Claim 31 (new):   The method as claimed in claim 24 further comprising procuring the technical system.

Claim 32 (new):   The method as claimed in claim 24 further comprising using the mean time period to be predicted between two failures to predict maintenance issues of the technical system.

Claim 33 (new):   The method as claimed in claim 24 further comprising using the mean time period to be predicted between two failures to predict costs of maintaining the technical system.

Claim 34 (new):   The method as claimed in claim 24 further comprising comparing the mean time period to be predicted between two failures of the technical system to a mean time period to be predicted between two failures of a second technical system.

Claim 35 (new):   The method as claimed in claim 34 further comprising deriving technical improvement possibilities from the comparison of the mean time period to be predicted between two failures of the technical system and the mean time period to be predicted between two failures of the second technical system.

Claim 36 (new):   The method as claimed in claim 24 further comprising selecting the technical system or the second technical system and concluding a contract with the supplier of the selected technical system.

Claim 37 (new):   A device for predicting the mean time period between two failures of a technical system, the device comprising:
          an apparatus capable of executing the steps of the method as recited in claim 23.